



The Fulbright in Kazakhstan

Handbook for U.S. Grantees



Contact Information

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Locations of the United States Mission in Kazakhstan:

U.S. Embassy Astana

23-22 Str., No. 3, Ak Bulak, Astana 010010

Kazakhstan

Phone: + 7 7172 70 21 00

Website: <https://kazakhstan.usembassy.gov>

U.S. Consulate General Almaty

Samal Towers

97 Zholdasbekov Str., 16th floor, Almaty 050051

Kazakhstan

Phone: + 7 727 250 76 12

Website: <http://almaty.usconsulate.gov/>

Welcome to Kazakhstan

Congratulations on receiving the Fulbright grant! We look forward to welcoming you to Kazakhstan soon. During your stay in Kazakhstan it is important that you maintain a close relationship with the U.S. Mission in order to successfully participate in the program. The Public Affairs Section will organize a general orientation program for the newly arrived Fulbright students and scholars.

MAP OF KAZAKHSTAN



KEY FACTS

Official Name: Republic of Kazakhstan

Type of Government: Republic

Chief of State and Head of Government: President Nursultan A. Nazarbayev

Capital City: Astana

Languages: Official – Kazakh, and Russian

Area: 2,717,300 sq. km/1,049,150 sq. mi

Population: 16.9 million

Religions: Islam 47%, Russian Orthodox 44%

Currency: Tenge (T)

Time Zones: Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) plus 4 to 6 hours;
Eastern Standard Time (EST) plus 10 to 11 hours.

Kazakhstan does not observe daylight saving time.

Weights and Measures: Metric system

Location and geography

Kazakhstan is located where the continents of Europe and Asia meet. It is bordered on the north and west by Russia and the Caspian Sea, on the east by China, and on the south by Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan.

Kazakhstan has a variety of terrain, with rugged snowcapped mountains in the south and east, desert in the south and west, forests and hills in the north, and a vast fertile, grassy plain or steppe, across the center of the country.

Before You Arrive in Kazakhstan

- Obtain a Kazakh visa. In order to apply for a Kazakh visa you will need a diplomatic note which stands for a support letter. **U.S. Fulbright grantees to Kazakhstan may be issued two types of Kazakh visas - multiple entry service visa or multiple entry business visa. The type of visa the U.S. Fulbright grantees will get is at the discretion of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.** The diplomatic note will be issued by the U.S. Mission in Kazakhstan and registered with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will not approve the diplomatic note issued by the U.S. Mission earlier than one month before the anticipated time of arrival in Kazakhstan. After the diplomatic note is issued and reference number is assigned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs you can send/submit your documents to the Consular Section of the Kazakhstan Embassy in Washington, DC or Kazakhstan Consulate General in NYC. For details and a visa application form please visit the website of the Kazakhstan Embassy in Washington, DC <http://www.kazakhembus.com/index.php?page=visa-requirements>. When filling out the Kazakh visa application please indicate the U.S. Consulate General Almaty as the inviting party with the address 41 Kazybek bi Str. Almaty 050010, Kazakhstan.
- Communicate well in advance your arrival information to the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Mission in Kazakhstan.
- If you plan on traveling in the South and Central Asian region you may want to receive visas to neighboring Central Asian countries before coming to Kazakhstan. You can also apply for visas to other Central and South Asian countries while in Kazakhstan.
- Make hotel reservations or arrange for temporary housing to stay upon your arrival or let the Public Affairs Section know if you request these arrangements to be made for you.
- Get in touch with your host institution affiliate in Kazakhstan as early as possible. This should be done before the summer break begins. Unlike universities in the U.S. most institutions of higher education in Kazakhstan are not in session in summer and it may be challenging to communicate with your host institution contacts right before arrival. You do not need a letter of invitation from your host institution for Kazakh visa purposes. The invitation letter will serve as a proof of your placement.
- Make sure to get an adequate supply of any medications you are taking to meet your needs for the duration of the grant in Kazakhstan.

Pick-up and Drop-off information

As a courtesy, the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Consulate General in Almaty will arrange for

Fulbright grantees to be picked-up and dropped-off at the airport by a Consulate motor pool vehicle upon their initial arrival and final departure. It is your responsibility to communicate the arrival information to Asiyat Suleimenova, your contact at the Public Affairs Section, U.S. Consulate General at least 3-7 days in advance.

Registration and Visa Renewal

In most cases the Kazakh Ministry of Foreign Affairs will approve business category visas for Fulbright U.S. grantees. In rare cases it may approve service category visas. If the Ministry of Foreign Affairs approves a multiple entry business category visa, the grantee will be able to stay in Kazakhstan 120 days, then he/she will have to apply for a new business visa outside the country, which will again have 120 days of duration. The Public Affairs Section will request issuance of a new diplomatic note for the grantee in order to apply for a visa.

U.S. Fulbright grantees, like all foreign citizens, have to register with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ministry of Interior Affairs) within 90 days of their arrival in Kazakhstan if they entered the country by plane, or within 5 days if they crossed the border by car or train. The Public Affairs Section will assist the grantees with visa registration.

All Fulbright student and scholars must register with the State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) online at <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>. Please also visit <http://travel.state.gov> for important guidance before departure. The sections on Crime, Medical Facilities, and Traffic Safety advisories are particularly useful.

You will also need to register to receive warden messages from the U.S. Embassy or Consulate. The warden system provides important security updates to American citizens in Kazakhstan in case of emergencies. http://kazakhstan.usembassy.gov/warden_messages.html

It is crucial that all participants maintain their contact and relationship with Public Affairs Section personnel throughout their Fulbright tenure. If you plan to travel outside of your grant site, please inform the Public Affairs Section so that you can be reached in the case of an emergency. In this way we hope to work together to provide you with the most rewarding and secure Fulbright experience possible in Kazakhstan.

Security Briefings

It is mandatory that scholars and students attend a security briefing from the Embassy or Consulate. The Public Affairs Section will arrange a security briefing right after the grantee's arrival in Kazakhstan.

Guidelines for Compliance with Fulbright Regulations

Research Report Submission (for students and ETAs)

Fulbright students are required to submit written updates to the Public Affairs Section about the progress of their research. Fulbright English Teaching Assistants (ETAs) should write updates about their teaching responsibilities. Also, Fulbrighters should keep the Public Affairs Section informed about any problems they encounter in carrying out their research or in their everyday life. All Fulbright research students and ETAs are **required** to make a presentation on their research findings 2-3 months prior to the end of their research grant at the American Corner.

Change of Research Topic

A grantee may not change his or her research topic without first consulting with the Public Affairs Section and IIE.

Leave Time

All Fulbrighters **must** inform the Public Affairs Sections of the U.S. Embassy or U.S. Consulate General before scheduling any overnight travel beyond their grant site. This is required so that we can know your whereabouts should the Embassy need to contact you in case of an emergency. Fulbright grantees are entitled to enjoy vacation while they are in Kazakhstan. If leaving the country, grantees must seek prior permission from the Public Affairs Section. If, for any reason, a grantee needs to visit the U.S., he/she must inform IIE and the Public Affairs Section in advance. It is of utmost importance that the Public Affairs Section is informed about the whereabouts of grantees at all times because of security concerns.

Completion of Projects

Students must inform the US Consulate General in Almaty or U.S. Embassy in Astana about their planned departure date from Kazakhstan two months in advance. Departing students and scholars must schedule an exit briefing with the Public Affairs Section.

Change of Address

Grantees must inform the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy or the U.S. Consulate General when they change their residence. Also, they must notify the Public Affairs Section if their contact numbers (i.e., cell phone number) changes.

Cell Phones

All Fulbright grantees are requested to purchase cell phones and give the cell phone numbers

to Asiyat Suleimenova, Public Affairs Section, U.S. Consulate General, when they arrive in country. U.S.-purchased cell phones do not work in Kazakhstan. The major mobile operators in Kazakhstan are Kcell, Beeline and Tele2. In Kazakhstan you do not have to buy a plan and sign any contract with a mobile communication company.

Recommended In-Country Health Providers

SOS International Clinics in Kazakhstan

Almaty Clinic

LOCATION: Almaty SOS International Clinic is located 11 LUGANSKOGO STREET, ABOVE THE KAZAKHSTAN HOTEL.

24 hours-a-day phone: (English speaking) + 7 (727)2581-911

Mobile: +7 701 744 1111

Astana Clinic

Tel.: +7 (7172) 580397

Mobile: + 7 701 745 9876

Atyrau Clinic:

Tel.: + 7 (7122) 586 911

Mobile: + 7 701 533 8911

InterTeach:

Almaty +7 (727) 3200 200

Astana +7 (7172) 515 300

Atyrau +7 (7122) 281 050

Money and Banking

Tenge, the local currency, is available from a variety of sources. The current exchange rate is approximately 148 tenge (kzt) for one US dollar. ATMs are plentiful in cities, but will charge a fee each time money is withdrawn by non-account holders. Currency exchange offices are abundant in the cities but they are reluctant to accept excessively old, torn USD bills.

The U.S. Mission in Kazakhstan grants U.S. Fulbrighters a privilege to cash checks at the cashier's offices. The amount a Fulbright grantee can cash at a time is limited to \$ 500. If you plan to cash your checks in Kazakhstan please make sure to bring your checkbook from the U.S. These are locations and operation hours of the cashiers offices in Almaty and Astana.

U.S. Consulate General, 97 Zholdasbekov Street, 16th floor— Monday-Friday, 3:00 p.m - 4:00 p.m.

U.S. Embassy Astana, 23-22 Str., # 3, Ak-Bulak 4 – Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m - 4:00 p.m.

Housing

Finding housing in major cities is not difficult in Kazakhstan, but U.S. Fulbright grantees need to be aware that rent rates in central locations, where they prefer to live, are often higher than those in other parts of the cities. There are numerous real estate agencies that can assist with finding housing for a fee. Also housing arrangements can be made by host institutions or affiliates, especially for Fulbright U.S. Scholar program grantees. Fulbright grantees currently residing in Kazakhstan sometimes act as a resource to help new arrivals find housing. In the cities of Almaty and Astana the Public Affairs Sections of the U.S. Mission may assist Fulbright grantees with finding apartments. Monthly rent for a 1BR apartment will about \$ 700-800 in the central part of Almaty. A 2BR apartment in the center of Almaty will be about \$ 900-1200 per month.

Postal Services

Diplomatic Pouch

Fulbright grantees are authorized to use special diplomatic mail couriers (the diplomatic pouch) to make a one-time shipment of educational materials **only** to the U.S. Consulate General in Almaty or U.S. Embassy in Astana. This shipment cannot exceed **four copy paper-size boxes**, none of which may weigh more than 50 pounds. Please note, these materials **cannot** be sent back to the United States by pouch from Kazakhstan.

Address these packages to:

If you are assigned to Astana
**Assistant Cultural Affairs Officer,
Public Affairs Section
2230 Astana Place,
Washington DC 20521-2230**

If you are assigned to Almaty
**Public Affairs Officer
Public Affairs Section
7030 Almaty Place
Department of State
Washington DC 20521 -7030**

The grantee's name must appear in the return address.

Fulbright grantees may also use diplomatic pouch for personal first-class letter mail weighing up to 13 ounces. In the case of books and printed materials, a package can weigh up to two pounds to and from the United States. Please note that in order for something to count as letter mail, you may need to request that shippers use soft envelopes instead of boxes, even if the box weighs less than two pounds. Letters must be addressed as follows:

**Jane Smith, Fulbright
Public Affairs Section
7030 Almaty Place
Department of State
Washington DC 20521-7030**

Grantees will use this address as the return address on all mail from abroad.

Note: U.S. stamps are not available in Kazakhstan. Grantees should bring stamps from the U.S.

The following is the list of items that are prohibited in the pouch:

Diplomatic pouch packages may not contain items that are *classified as “dangerous goods”* or require any outside container marking or labeling as required in the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Dangerous Goods Regulations. *At the time of ordering, customers are encouraged to ask vendor if a Hazard label is required on the outside of the package for international air shipments. If a Hazard label is required, the parcel cannot go in the pouch as it is considered a Dangerous Good as defined by IATA. Additionally, pouches may not contain items that are illegal to import into the receiving country or export from the sending country.*

Questions regarding potentially prohibited items should be sent to DPM-

Answerperson@state.gov for final decision. Known items prohibited for dispatch by diplomatic pouch *either from the United States to overseas, or from overseas to the United States, or from post to post*, include, but are not limited to:

☒ Alcoholic beverages (e.g., beer, wine, liquor);

☒ Ammunition (e.g., blanks, caps, shells, simulated ammo);

☒ Animals, endangered species products;

☒ Any device that cannot be completely disabled from emitting any noise, signal, or vibration while in transit. Batteries must be removed or *the item must be completely unwound and locked in this position* (such as clocks, watches, timers, alarms, radios, etc.);

☒ Any items for resale; ☒ *Batteries, Lithium metal or ion or polymer and sealed lead acid, excluding single-button cells installed in watches or computer motherboard-like desktops. Examples include the following: Laptops, iPads®, Kindles®, iPhones®, MP3 players, cell phones, cameras, some types of toys shipped with lithium batteries shipped alone, and uninterruptible power supply (UPS). NOTE: Only the following batteries are permitted: Alkaline, NiCad, NiMH, and the small flat coin “button” watch-type batteries. A desktop computer with a motherboard containing a button battery is permitted;*

☒ Bulk shipments *are permitted in the pouch but transportation is funded by the customer (personal or official). Definition of bulk shipment: Shipment that equals or exceeds 6 cubic feet (meets or exceeds 5 single-copy paper boxes) and is destined to the same addressee/household between pouch shipments. NOTE: 6 cubic feet is equal to 10,368 cubic inches and 1 cubic foot is equal to 1728 cubic inches. To determine the volume of a box in cubic feet, multiply the width times the length times the depth (all in inches) and divide the sum by 1728. For example, a box that measures 24” x 24” x 18” has a volume of 6 cubic feet;* ☒ Charitable donations of goods (e.g., school supplies for orphanage);

- Compressed gases and aerosols (e.g., hairspray);
- Controlled or illegal substances to be used without a prescription (e.g., narcotics);
- Corrosives (e.g., car batteries);
- Currency (cash);
- Dry ice;
- Explosives;
- Firearms and nonfirearm items, such as air rifles, water pistols, and objects resembling weapons or dangerous objects (including video game controllers that

resemble weapons);

- Flammable liquids (e.g., nail polish and remover, *hand sanitizer, lens wipes, medication containing alcohol, perfume, or cologne*);
- Flammable solids (e.g., safety matches);
- Fragile items that are broken and/or improperly packaged so as to have the potential to cause personal injury or damage to pouch contents (see 14 FAM 723.2, paragraph c, for packaging standards);
- *Gel packs*;
- *Hand sanitizer any size that contains alcohol and are flammable*;
- Human remains
- Incendiary materials such as road flares, cigarette lighters, self-starting charcoal, etc.;
- Infectious substances (IATA Category A), toxins, contaminated medical equipment, and medical specimens requiring outside markings under IATA regulations;
- *Inhalers for asthma are “under pressure” and cannot go in the pouch; consult the Office of Medical Services (MED)*;
- Light bulbs containing hazardous material, such as compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs);
- Liquids *in excess of 16 oz. in as single parcel in any type of container (glass or nonglass)* defined as anything that flows *like* any viscous substance and can ruin the contents of a pouch (includes lotions and peanut butter, for example). **NOTE:** *Liquids less than 16 oz. in a single parcel are permitted to be shipped via pouch (e.g. makeup, lotions, peanut butter, pet food, containers with foil top lids, etc)*;
- Magnetic materials such as powerful magnets that can damage computer software and other electrical equipment (e.g. speakers);
- Oxidizers;
- *Perishable goods – items liable to perish, decay or spoil rapidly, such as fresh meat, seafood, ripe fruits and certain temperature-sensitive medical products (i.e., blood diagnostics, etc)*;
- Pressurized containers (e.g., “contents under pressure”);
- Private business books, goods, and materials;
- Professional materials of a personal nature, except that limited personal office and training materials are allowed (see 14 FAM 724.1-3);
- Plants, seeds, bulbs, soil, fertilizer, plant food;
- Poisons;
- Radioactive substances;
- Temperature-sensitive items that could spoil or become ineffective if the temperature is not maintained within certain parameters (certain medications, perishable goods, etc.). In general, items that cannot withstand large temperature swings;

- Tires, automotive (single or multiple) are permitted to be shipped in the pouch but transportation costs are the responsibility of the customer and are considered bulk shipments (see bulk shipments);
- Toys containing Lithium batteries (see Batteries or Lithium);
- Uninterruptible power supply (UPS) contains nonspillable lead-acid batteries; and
- Weapons or items that resemble weapons (e.g., any spring-loaded knife (switchblade), tactical knives, fixed-bladed fighting/hunting knives, firearms, or components thereof, sling shots, bows, arrows, BB guns and pellet guns, firearms, throwing stars/spikes, ceremonial swords, toys resembling weapons, water pistols, etc.).

SECURITY ISSUES

Overall Crime and Safety Situation:

Travelers in Kazakhstan should exercise the same precautions concerning personal safety and protection of valuables as they would in any major U.S. city. Using good judgment and avoiding high-risk areas can reduce the crime threat. The most common crimes foreign tourists encounter are purse snatching, pick pocketing, assaults, and robberies. Pick pocketing or robberies occur most frequently in the vicinity of Western hotels, transportation sites, and open-air markets. The U.S. Consulate strongly recommends that Americans do not carry large sums of money on the street.

The Consulate has received reports from foreigners and local population of being victims of violent, late-night muggings. There have also been less frequent reports of assaults and robberies during daylight hours in the downtown business district. Contact LGF PAC-16 immediately; do not wait until the next business day. RSO strongly recommends traveling in pairs or groups to better avoid being a target of opportunity.

Police have reported an increase in petty thefts and vehicle break-ins over the past couple of years. It is recommended that you do not leave valuable items in open view within vehicles. There has also been an increase in residential burglaries and vehicle thefts. RSO recommends using all the appropriate residential security measures. When in a vehicle or approaching your vehicle be aware of your surroundings and keep your doors locked.

Bars and nightclubs are relatively safe, but the later one stays at an establishment, the more likely that one is to encounter a physical altercation. Visitors are encouraged to leave restaurants or bars if fights break out. Check with your host agency for decent places to go. Rule of thumb is late hours (past midnight) in combination with alcohol and unfamiliarity of surroundings/language, the greater the chance is that you'll get in trouble. Use common sense and stay in the company of mission personnel who are versed in navigating the city and dealing with its people.

The "lost wallet" or "turkey drop" scam continues to be common in Kazakhstan. This swindle involves the discovery of a lost wallet in your presence. At first a person will discover the wallet and offer to divide its contents with you. Then, a second person will appear, claim to be the owner of the wallet, and demand compensation for the missing money. Be aware of beggars, including children. They may try to distract you while they pick your pocket.

According to local law, foreigners are required to carry identification at all times. Be wary of persons falsely representing themselves as police or other local officials. It is uncommon, but Americans have become victims of harassment and extortion by imposters, genuine law enforcement and other officials. A genuine police official should always present his own credentials when approaching someone on the street. In most cases local police should behave professionally. If a genuine police officer requests ID, cooperate and show the officer your identification, preferably a certified copy of your passport or diplomatic card. Never voluntarily hand over your entire wallet to a police officer. If inappropriately pressured or harassed, tell the officer that you will report his behavior to the U.S. Embassy and his supervisors. Local authorities are concerned about these incidents and have cooperated in investigating such cases. Try to obtain the officer's name, badge number, or license plate number, and note where the incident happened because this information assists local officials in identifying the perpetrators.

Terrorism:

While no incidents that meet the definition of terrorism have occurred, a number of incidents with potential links to violent extremism have taken place in 2011. These incidents have included: a suicide bomb attack on a host government facility in Aktobe, a car exploding at a host government facility in Astana, shooting of police officers in Shubarshy, explosions targeting host government facilities in Atyrau, and shooting of police officers in Taraz.

Terrorists do not distinguish between official and civilian targets. Because of increased security at official U.S. and host country facilities, terrorists are also targeting "soft" civilian targets such as residential areas, night clubs, restaurants, places of worship, hotels, schools, outdoor recreation events, resorts, beaches, maritime facilities, and aircraft. Western hotels continue to be a favored "soft" target for terrorists worldwide. It is always recommended to request rooms facing away from the street and paying very close attention to your surroundings in the hotel lobby. It is important to always be observant and keep vigilant security practices.

Americans are advised to vary their routines, work schedules, commuting times, routes and social activities to reduce the risk of becoming a victim of terrorist-related violence. Americans are strongly encouraged to report all suspicious activity to the Regional Security Office.

Political Violence:

As a whole, civil unrest and/or protests are rare in Kazakhstan.

In December 2011, there were riots in the Mangistau Region, located in the western part of the country, where there was rampant destruction and protestors were shot and killed by authorities.

In order to hold a demonstration, organizers must file a petition with the city and receive a permit. In general, most demonstrations involve only a handful of participants, usually less than

twenty. Occasionally, groups organize demonstrations without permits; police generally disperse the participants quickly and peacefully.

The best practice is just to avoid demonstrations, if you see a demonstration go in the opposite direction and report it up your chain-of-command so other people can avoid it. If the demonstrations turn into riots, stay inside and away from windows until the violence has died down.

Other Concerns:

Alcohol and alcohol abuse can be serious problems in Kazakhstan. It is not uncommon to encounter intoxicated and possibly aggressive individuals anytime, day or night. They must be avoided as they can become surly or, worse yet, abusive.

Personal Safety:

The following safety tips are common sense advice, appropriate for Almaty or any city, on how to avoid becoming a victim:

Observational and Situational Awareness

- Avoid dark or dimly lit areas. Avoid parks after dark. There are many trees and low bushes and other hiding places if someone wants to surprise you. There are also plenty of escape routes for the criminals after the fact.
- Be observant of your surroundings. Attempt to project your situational awareness not only to your immediate area but also ahead toward your direction of travel. This may allow you to identify potential threats and alter your route to avoid possible hazards.
- Use all of your senses. Do not wear headphones or attempt to read while walking.
- Be suspicious of individuals who crowd you, walk toward you or near you when the area you are in is not crowded.
- Be alert to individuals who appear to be together and then separate, but continue to go in the same direction, either toward you or in the direction you are travelling. This could be a sign of possible surveillance or a pre-attack indicator.
- Be alert to individuals who suddenly step in front of you, walk very slowly in your path, or approach you and ask you questions. These may be distractions for someone to attack you from the side or behind.
- Be observant of anyone following you from the ATM or currency exchange.
- Be alert to anyone who seems to take undue interest in either you or your activities.

- When walking down sidewalks, walk in the middle of the sidewalk. Scan recessed doorways and driveways for potential problems. When coming to corners walk closer to the street to avoid being surprised by someone around the corner.
- Attempt to walk on the side of the street opposite traffic flow. This enables you to see what is happening with the traffic that is closest to you.

Reaction and Response

If confronted by a criminal, in most situations it is best not to struggle or try to apprehend the person. Remember, you do not own anything that is worth getting seriously injured or killed for. However, DO NOT be taken by the attackers to a more secluded location. There may be a point where you must fight back to defend your life.

If you must fight back, make it swift and try to have a planned avenue of escape.

Try to always have a plan. Constantly, ask yourself the “What if” question. If “X” should happen, have an appropriate response “A, B, and C” already planned in your mind. Mental preparedness is the key to surviving any attack scenario.

Safe havens/Safe Areas

Designate safe havens or safe areas near your residence or along commonly taken routes. This can be the Consulate, police station, fire house, or even a sufficiently lighted, public area such as a restaurant or supermarket.

If you think you are being followed do not continue toward a more secluded area. Go toward one of your safe areas and call for assistance from co-workers or LGF PAC-16.

Taxis

Only ride in marked taxis. Make sure that a fare has been agreed to. Never get into a taxi that already has other passengers and do not allow the driver to pick up other passengers. If you have luggage in the trunk, do not pay the fare or close your door until the luggage is removed.

Here are the tax companies you can use for transportation in Almaty

Taxi Maximum

+7(727) 272-0404

+7(777) 277-0763

+7(701) 617-7796

AportTaxi - Call center: +7(727)3 999 400, +7 777 7 999 400, +7 701 767 67 08

www.aporttaxi.kz

Garage Taxi – 7(727) 276-2907, 299-9000, www.garage999.kz

Hertz , Taxi and car rent – 7(727) 245-8803, www.hertz.kz

K.I.S. Taxi – 140, www.078.kz

Mega, Taxi – 7(727) 233-3111

COMFORT TAXI +7(727)227-2222, +7 707 822-2228, +7 701 969 6969 <http://comfort-taxi.kazprom.net>

Almaty Taxi – 7(727) 255-5333

Service-Taxi – 7(727) 230-2203

Taxi Profi – 7(727) 270-70-70, www.taxiprestige.kz

Ekipazh plus – 7(727) 270-0888

Express Taxi – 7(727) 260-06-00, www.express-taxi.kz

Elit Taxi – 7(727) 278-03-33, www.nettaxi.kz

Documents and Valuables

Do not wear or carry valuables where they are readily observed. Men should carry their wallet in a front pocket and their money separate from the wallet in a money clip. If robbed, you lose your money, but you might not lose your credit cards or ID. Women should avoid carrying a purse or if they carry a purse, carry it in front. Do not loop the shoulder strap over your neck as this only increases your chance of injury if the purse is grabbed.

Always carry some valid form of ID. If you do not have a Diplomatic card, it is recommended you carry a copy of your passport and Kazakh visa that is certified and stamped by the Consular Section. Police do have the legal authority to request identification from pedestrians on the street. Police will detain those without proper identification.

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Almaty Regional Security Office

For Emergencies call PAC-16: (727)250-48-92;
8-777-223-0859

U.S. Consulate General / Almaty

Phone: (727)-250-48-02/ 250-76-12
Address: 97 Zlodasbekov Street, 16th floor,
Almaty
Duty Officer: cell: 8-777-222-1960

U.S. EMBASSY/Astana:

Phone: 8-7172-70-21-00
Emergency Call Post 1: 8-7172-70-22-00

Medical emergency in Almaty:

"SOS Clinic/Almaty: 258-19-11 (24hrs),
Doctor on call: 8-701-744-1111 (24hrs);

These are phone numbers one can call in
case emergency (fire, police,
ambulance,etc.)

- 101—Fire
- 102—Police
- 103—Ambulance
- 104—Gas Leak

Suggested Pre-Departure Readings

In Search of Kazakhstan: The Land that Disappeared, Christopher Robbins

Apples Are from Kazakhstan: The Land That Disappeared, Christopher Robbins

Kazakhstan (Bradt Travel Guides) by Paul Brummell

Central Asia (Lonely Planet Multi Country Guide) by Bradley Mayhew

Once in Kazakhstan: The Snow Leopard Emerges, Keith Rosten

Nazarbayev and the Making of Kazakhstan: From Communism to Capitalism, Jonathan Aitken

Kazakhstan: Coming of Age, Michael Fergus

Kazakhstan: Unfulfilled Promise. Revised Edition, Martha Brill Olcott

Nomads and Networks: The Ancient Art and Culture of Kazakhstan, Sören Stark, Karen S. Robinson, Zainolla Samashev and Jennifer Y. Chi, Mar 11, 2012

Islam Without a Veil: Kazakhstan's Path of Moderation, Claude Salhani, Jun 30, 2011

Silent Steppe, by Mukhamet Shayakhmetov

USEFUL WEBSITES

U.S. Consulate General Almaty website:

<http://almaty.usconsulate.gov/>

U.S. Consulate General Almaty Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/almaty.usconsulate>

U.S. Consulate General Almaty Twitter:

@USCGAlmaty

Kazakhstan Government

Government of Republic of Kazakhstan www.government.kz

International organizations and associations

United Nations in Kazakhstan www.kazakhstanun.org

World Bank in Kazakhstan www.worldbank.org.kz

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in Kazakhstan www.ebrd.com

American Chamber of Commerce in Kazakhstan www.amcham.kz

Chambers and business associations

Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Kazakhstan www.cci.kz

National Economic Chamber of Kazakhstan “Atameken” www.atameken-kz.com

Kazakhstan Entrepreneurs Forum www.businessforum.kz

Statistics

Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Statistics www.stat.kz

National Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan www.nationalbank.kz

Company directories

Yellow Pages Kazakhstan www.yellow-pages.kz

Kompass www.kompass.com

News Sources:

Radio Free Europe, Radio Liberty. One of the best ways to stay current about happenings in Central Asia.

<http://www.rferl.org/>

Ferghana.ru. A popular source for Central Asian news in English from Russian news agencies.

<http://enews.ferghana.ru/>

Eurasianet. Based in New York, a reliable source of news about the region.

<http://www.eurasianet.org/>

NewEurasianet.

<http://www.neweurasia.net/category/kazakhstan/>

Registan.

<http://registan.net/index.php/category/kazakhstan/>

Travel information

Kazakhstan is the most accessible country in Central Asia. Numerous international airlines have flights to Almaty and Astana. The international airlines that code share with U.S. airlines are Lufthansa, KLM, British Airways, British Midland International, and Turkish Airlines. Please remember to receive your Kazakh visa prior to your flight to Kazakhstan. You may not apply for a Kazakh visa upon arrival at the airport in Almaty or Astana.

Within Kazakhstan you can travel by air, train, or car. Kazakhstan is the ninth largest country in the world, and certain destinations take too long to be reached by train or car from Almaty or

Astana. The biggest Kazakhstan air company is Air Astana, which has flights to international destinations as well. Please visit AirAstana at <http://www.airastana.com> for domestic and international flight information. There are other domestic air companies that you can use for travel within Kazakhstan. Tickets for all airlines are available for purchase online.

Trains can be used for shorter destinations. The only railway company operating for passenger transportation is Kazakhstan Temir Zholy. Train tickets are relatively cheap and are sold by at the train stations and at numerous locations in the cities.

MinBUZA (Travel & Countries) [www.minbuza.nl/nl/Reizen en Landen](http://www.minbuza.nl/nl/Reizen_en_Landen)

KazTourism www.kaztourism.kz

Trip Advisor www.tripadvisor.com

Online Histories of Central Asia: <http://onlinehistories.ssrc.org/centralasia/>

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/country_profiles/1298071.stm

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5487.htm>

<http://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/kazakhstan.htm>

<http://www.newspaperindex.com/en/newspapers/kazakhstan/>